

# WEEKLY VIEWS

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010

Thanks to the tireless efforts of IDOC staff, the Department has collected 7227 food items and \$4,247 to be donated to food banks across the state for the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers food drive. Great job everyone!

The Inaugural Indiana Correctional Peace Officer Fund Golf Outing will be held on Friday, May 14, 2010. There are still several group spots available. Interested parties should contact Greg Jones (219-785-2511 Ext 4672 or [gljones@idoc.in.gov](mailto:gljones@idoc.in.gov)) or Steven Klosowskias (785-2511-Ext 4188 or [smklosowski@idoc.in.gov](mailto:smklosowski@idoc.in.gov)) as soon as possible.

Miami Correctional Facility received a 98.2 percent rating on its non-mandatory and a 100 percent rating on its mandatory folders in its Reaccreditation Audit by the American Correctional Association. Auditor Hugh Daley said, "It is indeed an honor for someone such as myself to come into the operation that you have here that demonstrates the proficiency and professionalism that those who are outside the gates do not understand."

Forty PEN Products' offender workers were awarded U.S. Department of Labor Apprenticeships as assembly technicians, quality control technicians, office managers and material coordinators at the Westville Correctional Facility. The offenders completed 2000 – 5000 hours of on the job training, as well as passing several skills tests to receive their certification.

Branchville Correctional Facility received a visit from Warrick County Judge Meier and his drug court staff. Judge Meier interviewed offenders who are enrolled in or have already completed the Therapeutic Community program for possible modification through the Purposeful Incarceration Program.

Bob Cliver was honored by fellow staff as he retired after nearly 18 years of service. The first armorer for Wabash Valley, Bob trained nearly 9,000 staff with zero armory audit deficiencies during his distinguished IDOC career.

Miami Correctional Facility raised more than \$750 hosting a soup sale fundraiser for Officer Jason Kochensparger who recently lost his wife to cancer. He has three little ones at home and high medical bills. Numerous staff members brought in crock pots full of soup to sell and donations were also taken.

Free Lance writer Emma Bowen Meyer visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility to interview staff and offenders for articles she is preparing for the Anderson Herald Bulletin in regards to the facility's Vocational Horticulture Program.

Wabash Valley's Inside Out Dad's Program delivered an \$800 check to God's Pantry in Knox County, for the Hoosiers Helping Hoosiers Food Drive. The Dad's also sent \$750 checks to 2 area youth groups, Greene and Knox Counties Voices for Kids, which watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children. Over \$1,200 has also been donated to the ongoing Wabash Valley Religious Services Haiti Relief effort by the offender population.

Lisa Williams and Doug Evans from PEN Products presented the role and mission of PEN Products and the IDOC to 40 criminal justice students during Career Week at IUPUI. Lisa and Doug were part of a four member panel who shared their backgrounds in the criminal justice system and answered questions from the students in attendance.

Pendleton Correctional Facility received a thank you letter from Joy Plummer, Executive Director of Operation Love Ministries in Anderson, IN. Ms. Plummer expressed her appreciation for the 120 pounds of food donated by the facility to the organization in 2009. The food was produced by offenders assigned to the facility's Vocational Horticulture Program under the guidance and supervision of Instructor Phil Greenburg.

Seventy-eight staff from the newly developed Short-Term Offender Program (STOP) in Plainfield and Short Term Offender Program Unit (STOP-U) in New Castle attended training at CTI to learn about the mission, classification, programming, and characteristics of a short-term offender program that will be utilized in managing this unique population.

Unit Manager Bruce Helming has been promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Operations at the Pendleton Correctional Facility. Tim Purcell, the current Assistant Superintendent of Operations will be assigned as an Assistant Superintendent at the Correctional Industrial Facility to fill an existing vacancy.

The Westville Correctional Facility recognized sixteen employees with the "2009 Perfect Attendance Award" at the facility's quarterly assembly. The recipients received a Cash Spot Bonus and gift packages from PEN Products, Aramark and CMS. Staff also bid farewell to outgoing Superintendent William Wilson and welcomed new WCC Superintendent, Mark Levenhagen.

South Bend Juvenile's Staff Appreciation Committee hosted a bake sale and raised \$60. Part of these funds will go to offset the cost of a popcorn machine the committee purchased for staff ceremonies and Corrections Week.

The Indiana State Prison held a ceremony to reward employees for their contributions to corrections. Approximately 200 staff were in attendance in the prison's chapel.

"Be the change you want to see in the world." –Mahatma Ghandi